

Remarks

Claims 1-90 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 18, 32, 51, 63, and 77 have been amended.

The specification has been amended pursuant to requests by the Examiner. Specifically, the title has been supplied to the first page of the specification, additional sections entitled "Cross-References To Related Application" and "Brief Description Of The Drawings" have been inserted, and application/patent information has been updated on pages 3 and 11 of the specification.

Applicant wants to thank the Examiner for kindly taking the time to discuss the application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-90 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 under two grounds:

(a) Pursuant to a telephone interview with the Examiner dated June 2, 2004, the Examiner has agreed to withdraw the rejections based on omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. "[I]t is not essential to a patentable combination that there be interdependency between the elements of the claimed device or that all the elements operate concurrently toward the desired result." *See* MPEP § 2702.01. It is noted that independent claims 1 and 63 are method claims, and independent claim 32 mainly includes means plus functions.

(b) Independent claims 1, 32 and 63, and dependent claims 18, 51 and 77 have been amended to clarify the claims and overcome the rejections.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that all the claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is needed to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 14, 2004.

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